Express Mail No. EK900600525US

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: ___/_____ First Named Applicant: ___Crow_____

Examiner: _Ly, Anh_____ Art Unit: _2172_ Status of Application:_____

Tentative Participants:

(1)_Scott Ouellette_____ (2)_Ly, Anh_____

(3)_____ (4)_____

Proposed Date of Interview: _TBD_____ Proposed Time: _TBD____ (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) [x] Telephonic   (2) [ ] Personal   (3) [ ] Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: [ ] YES   [X] NO
If yes, provide brief description:_____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1)_Rej.____	_1, 2, 4-6_	_Ruane_____	[ ]	[ ]	[X]
(2)_____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
(3)_____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]
(4)_____	_____	_____	[ ]	[ ]	[ ]

[ ] Continuation Sheet Attached

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:
_Please see Written Statement of the Substance._____

_____

_____

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE:

This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.
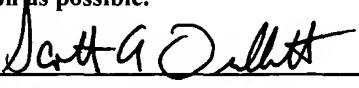
_____   _____
(Applicant/Applicant's Representative Signature)   (Examiner/SPE Signature)

Applicant:	Crow et al	Art Unit:	2172
Serial Number:	To be assigned	Examiner:	Ly, Anh
Filed:	To be assigned		
Title:	VERSATILE INDIRECTION IN AN EXTENT BASED FILE SYSTEM		

This is a written statement of the substance for the requested telephone interview resulting from an Advisory Action of the parent application serial number 09/301,057 mailed on August 1, 2003.

The rejection of claims 1, 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,991,862 to Ruane (hereinafter "Ruane") was maintained by the examiner. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, in addition to other features, that a portion of the rows store extents pointing to data blocks, each extent having a field to indicate whether the extent is an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent. There is no teaching or suggestion in Ruane for the pointer entry to be able to indicate that the pointer entry is a hole extent which points to an empty data block.

In Part 5 of the Advisory Action, the examiner stated, in response to applicants' argument that Ruane does not teach the invention recited in applicants' independent claim 1, that "…applicants argued about a hole extent which points to an empty data block and a single bit. Both empty data block and a single bit are not in claims 1 and 5." The examiner seems to believe that applicant is claiming a single bit in addition to an empty data block. Clearly this is not the case. Applicants are not claiming a single bit, but rather are claiming that a portion of the rows store extents pointing to data blocks, each extent having a field to indicate whether the extent is an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent. Ruane's disclosure does not teach or suggest the ability or

desire to have extents including a field indicating whether the extent points to an indirect extent, a hole extent or a direct extent.

Claims 2 and 4 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Regarding claim 4, which recites that each extent further comprises a length field wherein the length field of each indirect extent indicates the number of data blocks pointed to indirectly by the indirect extent, the examiner states that Ruane teaches extents that are a list of physical addresses for searching the address and the size, physical address and length but refers to the Background section of the Specification, which recites the inventor's view that the described extents-based system is not desirable. In Column 2, Lines 30-35, the inventor recites that one of the problems with the extent-based system is that it requires a "very long list of 'physical address, length' pairs to specify a file." Clearly then, as explained in applicants' previous response, Ruane does not teach or suggest having a length field and actually <u>teaches away</u> from one. Ruane never addresses the issue of retrieving more than one data block with a single pointer. There is no teaching or suggestion of a pointer entry including a length field indicating a number of data blocks pointed to by the pointer entry.

Regarding independent claim 5, the examiner states that Ruane discloses assigning an inode to a data file to be stored and writing a plurality of extents in the inode, each extent pointing to a string of one or more data blocks for storing a segment of the data file and having a field for indicating that the extent is one of an indirect extent, a hole extent and a direct extent. This rejection is respectfully traversed, as Ruane does not teach or suggest a field for indicating that the extent is one of an indirect extent, a hole extent and a direct extent, or that each extent points to a string of one or more data blocks.

Claim 6 depends from independent claim 5 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 5.

Applicants respectfully request an interview to further clarify Applicants' invention and the Examiner's cited references to Ruane. It is believed that such an interview will expedite prosecution and place this case in condition for allowance.

Date: 8/19/03

Respectfully submitted,

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